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LDS Women Unite



Activism, Sisterhood Meet as LDS Women
Gather to Foster Political & Social Change

The founders of Mormon Women for Ethical Government (MWEG). From left to right: Linda Hoffman Kimball, Sharlee Mullins Glenn, Erica Glenn, Jacque White, Melissa Dalton-Bradford. Immigration, health care and discrimination among top MWEG issues. Photo courtesy of MWEG.

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Champions of Ethical
Government**



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Mormon Women for Ethical Government

Champions Political Activism, Sisterhood

LDS women unite across party lines to promote positive change through understanding, activism and education

By Merry Gordon
The Beehive

I've never been a politicized person before," begins writer and artist Linda Hoffman Kimball. But when faced with a contentious election year and challenges to her values, Sister Kimball joined a group of her fellow sisters to found Mormon Women for Ethical Government, a cohort of LDS women primed for political activism and ready to champion the causes upon which the country was founded.

Mormon Women for Ethical Government, or MWEG, is a nonpartisan group founded in early 2017 by Sharlee Mullins Glenn and some of her friends as response to the frustrations of sisters

who saw their principles come under fire by the government. MWEG members see themselves as both "watchdogs and activists," according to their welcome statement, "guided by our discipleship to Jesus Christ and His teachings. Our goal is to oppose unlawful and/or unethical proceedings and to promote positive change."

The group upholds the ideals of nonviolent resistance and civil discourse promoted by Martin Luther King, Jr., and Gandhi. Instead of rancorous name-calling, the sisterhood is quick to promote understanding.

"We take our former First Lady's



Photo courtesy of MWEG

MWEG participated at a press conference on unethical deportations this past spring at the Salt Lake Airport.

mantra as our battle cry," Sister Glenn explains on the MWEG website. "When they go low, we go high."

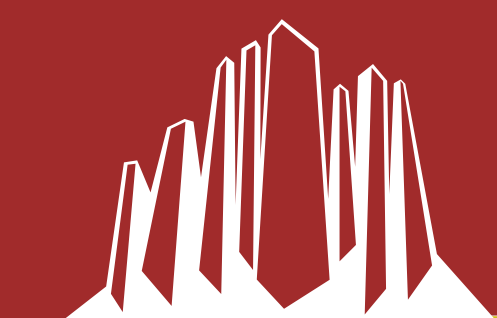
Two foundational questions anchor the group's beliefs: "Is it legal? Is it ethical? If the answer is no to either (or both) of those questions, then we move to oppose it."

Causes near and dear to the hearts of MWEG members include health care, immigration, discrimination, foreign affairs, the environment, and constitutional violations, among others. Twenty subcommittees focus on these target areas, and state-specific MWEG chapters are popping up throughout the

nation, including Arizona, and across the world as far afield as the Middle East. The group has a growing social media presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Sisters stimulate positive action by engaging more fully in the political process. This includes postcard and phone call blitzes to elected representatives, increased attendance at Town Hall meetings, and special events to encourage understanding between communities, like a recent "Meet the Muslims" night at the Utah Islamic

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Mormon Women
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Center in Sandy, Utah.

The MWEG's Effective Action Committee also supports a Daily Call to Action, providing addresses and phone numbers of elected officials along with prepared talking points and social media hashtags to promote awareness.

Sister Hoffman sees such participation as vital. "We have moved beyond our own comfort levels and engaged in the civic process We have called

and contacted our representatives to voice our opinions. We have aided refugees, defended anti-discrimination causes, studied health care, welfare, constitutional issues and more," she says.

"We are putting voices and legs to Elder Nelson's plea: 'We need women who know how to make important things happen by their faith and who are courageous defenders of morality and families in a sin-sick world.'"

Some of the issues most recently dealt with by MWEG include the detention by ICE agents of a Utah mother

protected under the DACA agreement (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), a number of refugee advocacy events, and a call to action concerning an April 2017 executive order that would allow national monument designations to be canceled or else diminish the size of those sites to open up more federal land for mining, drilling and other developments.

MWEG keeps members engaged at the federal and state level, encouraging women to do what they can within their communities to support the causes that they love.

"Local governance doesn't get nearly the attention as national, and yet our state legislation affects us as much, some argue more," says Arizona chapter leader Kendra Worsley Kellis on the chapter's Facebook page. "This is a great place where you can ask to

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Photo by Sharlee Mullins Glenn

Sister Linda Hoffman Kimball participates in Operation Purple Rain, a MWEG card drive for Utah Rep. Jason Chaffetz. Purple was, among other things, the color of the Suffragists who championed women's rights.

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Mormon Women Continued from pg. 4

see the legislation you are passionate about and stay updated on relevant materials.”

MWEG has attracted a wide range of LDS women. A recent demographic survey indicates that members take a wide variety of political views, from staunchly Conservative to resolutely Liberal and everything in between.

“Being a non-partisan group, we try

to connect at higher levels,” says Sister Kimball. She recognizes the presence of political differences as an opportunity for growth, both individually and within the group. “Good is not always consensus. Good is still loving each other while holding differing opinions.”

MWEG members are lawyers, homemakers and stay-at-home moms, Ph.D. economists at Ivy League schools, data analysts, opera singers, social workers, currently-serving mis-



Photo courtesy of Church History Library, Salt Lake City

This image of early Relief Society sisters appears on MWEG's website and Facebook page. Eliza R. Snow said, “Those who are alive to their religion know that there is much to do. The sisters have weighty duties placed upon them, and duties that cannot be accomplished singly, but require a unity of heart and feeling. We must be united.”



Photo by James D. Glenn

Founder Sharlee Mullins Glenn and her daughter outside a mosque in Cairo, Egypt. Many MWEG members have participated in immigration rallies and interfaith community building opportunities.

sionaries and calligraphers. Some are career politicians; others have never contacted their representatives before joining MWEG.

“I must say,” says founder Sharlee Mullins Glenn on the group's Facebook page, “we're a pretty impressive bunch.”

Sister Kimball finds strength in MWEG's diversity: “There is nothing quite as satisfying as navigating differences of opinion and ending up at a place of charity, appreciation and understanding,” she says.

“We start with assumption of respect and insist on listening to—rather

than judging—others' opinions. There is an overall tone of gratitude, support, drive and good will among the group.”

MWEG held its first retreat on April 1st, 2017, in Utah.

“We left with a sense of unity, motivation and support,” affirms Sister Kimball. “We included a diaper drive for refugee families and created a mountain of boxes for this good cause. It was especially satisfying to put faces to the names we had only seen online.”

Sister Kimball views MWEG as an extension of the early Relief Society efforts to provide benevolence to the

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Photo by Stanley J. Kartchner

Tucson Temple Opens For Tours

By Allison Beckert
The Beehive

The Tucson Temple Open House begins this week, a much-anticipated opportunity for the community to see inside what has turned out to be another glorious temple on Arizona's landscape. Announced by President Monson in October of 2012, it will go into full activity at the end of this summer. The new temple district will rely on the service of members who have had to travel far to serve in the Mesa or Gila Valley temples.

Every temple is an architectural wonder built to reflect the region it will serve. Tucson's temple sits in cactus-dotted foothills and its right angles and geometric accents fit the architecture

of the area. When on the tour, be sure to look for the gold accents outside the structure. This floral motif, inspired by the blossom of the paddle cactus, repeats through the interior and in the stained glass throughout. One of the most striking elements of the design is the dome atop the structure where the angel Moroni is mounted.

"The tiles on the dome are zinc, made in Germany," says Debbi Weitzell, a member of the team working on the open house. "They will maintain their beautiful bluish color for many years."

The groundbreaking took place on October 17, 2015, and President Dieter F. Uchtdorf presided over the proceed-

ings. At the start of the project, setting a tone of respect for the land, cacti and succulents on the site were carefully replanted in a temporary location and then used as part of the planned landscaping.

Construction progressed quickly, as the site went from scrub to pristine temple in under two years. While the architects of the project are based in Utah, the general contractor and subcontractors are local, lending their professional skills and pride in their home to making the final product a credit to their community. The angel Moroni statue, in this case 9 feet tall and made of fiberglass resplendent in gold leaf, was placed in position on July 7th, 2016, and the dedication will take place a year and a month from its installation.

In March, the president of the Tucson temple was announced. President James M. Moeller and Sister Marina

Evelyn Harrison Moeller have already been hard at work preparing the temple for its open house, dedication, and full function for the Tucson district. President Moeller was born in Phoenix and has served in many positions within the church. He is a former Area Seventy and he served as president of the Salt Lake City Mission with his wife. Sister Moeller was born in Fortaleza, Brazil. She's served in several positions at all levels, worked as a senior missionary, and partnered with her husband to lead and care for their Salt Lake missionaries.

The Tucson Arizona Temple Open House will begin June 3 and will continue until June 24, excluding Sundays. For more details, visit www.tucsonldstemple.com for their comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions page. The dedication will take place in August, and will be broadcast for member participation across the state.

Mormon Women Continued from pg. 5

needy and a voice for women.

"Utah women were among the first to vote and advocated for women's rights and suffrage with vigor and voice. MWEG continues that same pioneer spirit, commitment and zest for me."

Arizona MWEG member Holly Urbancic has found new purpose in her political activism, saying, "The church has always wanted us to be educated voters and that certainly aligns with

MWEG goals." She has participated in phone call and letter writing campaigns.

Sister Alesha Ramos, also of Arizona, agrees. "We have been commanded to serve in our communities, to participate in ethical practices, to be politically educated," she says.

Sister Kimball hopes this spirit of activism is contagious. "As co-founder Melissa Dalton-Bradford, summed it up so well, I 'will not be complicit by being complacent.'"

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Newly Designed Card and Bookmark Simplifies Sharing the Book of Mormon

By Cecily Markland Condie
The Beehive

Though motivated by a firm testimony of the Book of Mormon and a strong desire to share that powerful book, Lorin Hatch, of the Gilbert Arizona Stapley Stake, says he wasn't finding a great deal of success.

After he and his wife Lina were called last year to serve as Member and Leader Support missionaries in the Arizona Gilbert Mission, he became all the more determined.

"The Book of Mormon has the power to change lives, to convert people to the gospel," Elder Hatch says. "My responsibility—our responsibility—is to get it into people's hands."

He remembered a handout he had seen several years ago. Created by Lanny Owens of Mesa, the handout explains the origins of the Book of Mormon and tells of its role as a testament of Christ.

Elder Hatch resurrected the handout, simplified it, and turned it into a beautifully drawn card and a bookmark reading plan.

"You simply ask a friend or neighbor, 'Has anyone ever told you why we

are called Mormons?' Then, using the illustrated card and the script on the back, you can easily explain."

"It's impactful enough that people will readily accept a copy of the Book of Mormon," Elder Hatch says.

"The bookmark provides a nine-day reading guide, with a list of scriptures that would take about 10 minutes a day to read. This means in an hour and a half to two, a person can get a really good idea of how powerful and inspiring the Book of Mormon is," Elder Hatch says.

In addition to using the cards, bookmarks and instruction sheet himself, Elder Hatch has trained other missionaries, ward members and friends who have found similar success.

"If people just try it, they like it," he says. "The response is overwhelming."

He printed an initial 5,000 cards and bookmarks. Those were distributed, and, after a few tweaks "to make it even more Christ-centered"—another 5,000 were printed.

Elders Merritt and Davies, among the first trained by Elder and Sister

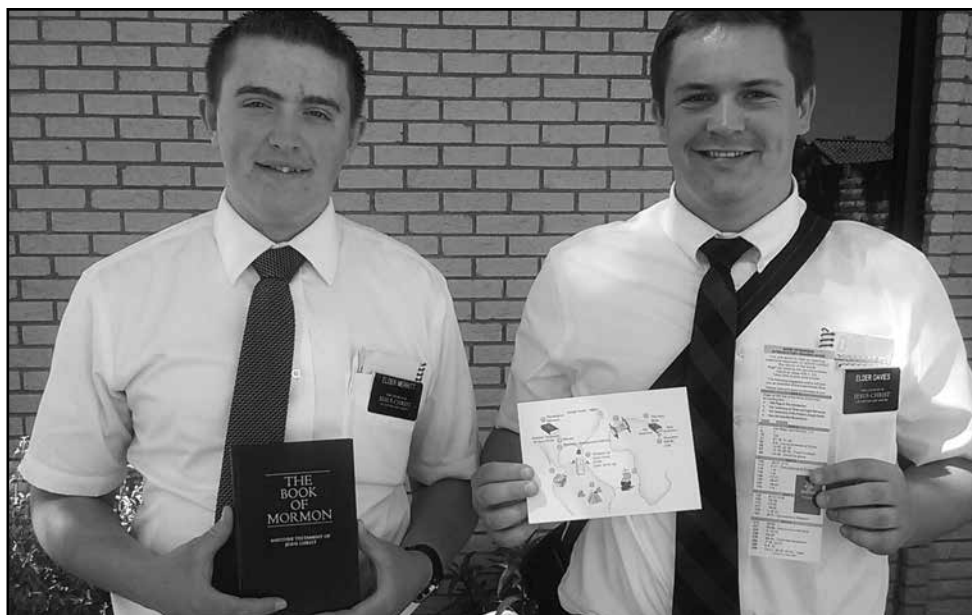


Photo courtesy of Lorin Hatch

Elder Brayden Merritt and Elder Sean Davies of the Arizona Gilbert Mission placed 20 copies of the Book of Mormon in one day, using the approach developed by Lorin and Lina Hatch, Member and Leader Support missionaries in that mission.

Hatch, said: "You inspired us. We went out this afternoon and handed out 20 copies of the Book of Mormon."

Another missionary said, "The cards and bookmarks are working great! We've handed out more copies of the Book of Mormon in the last few days than we have all transfer!"

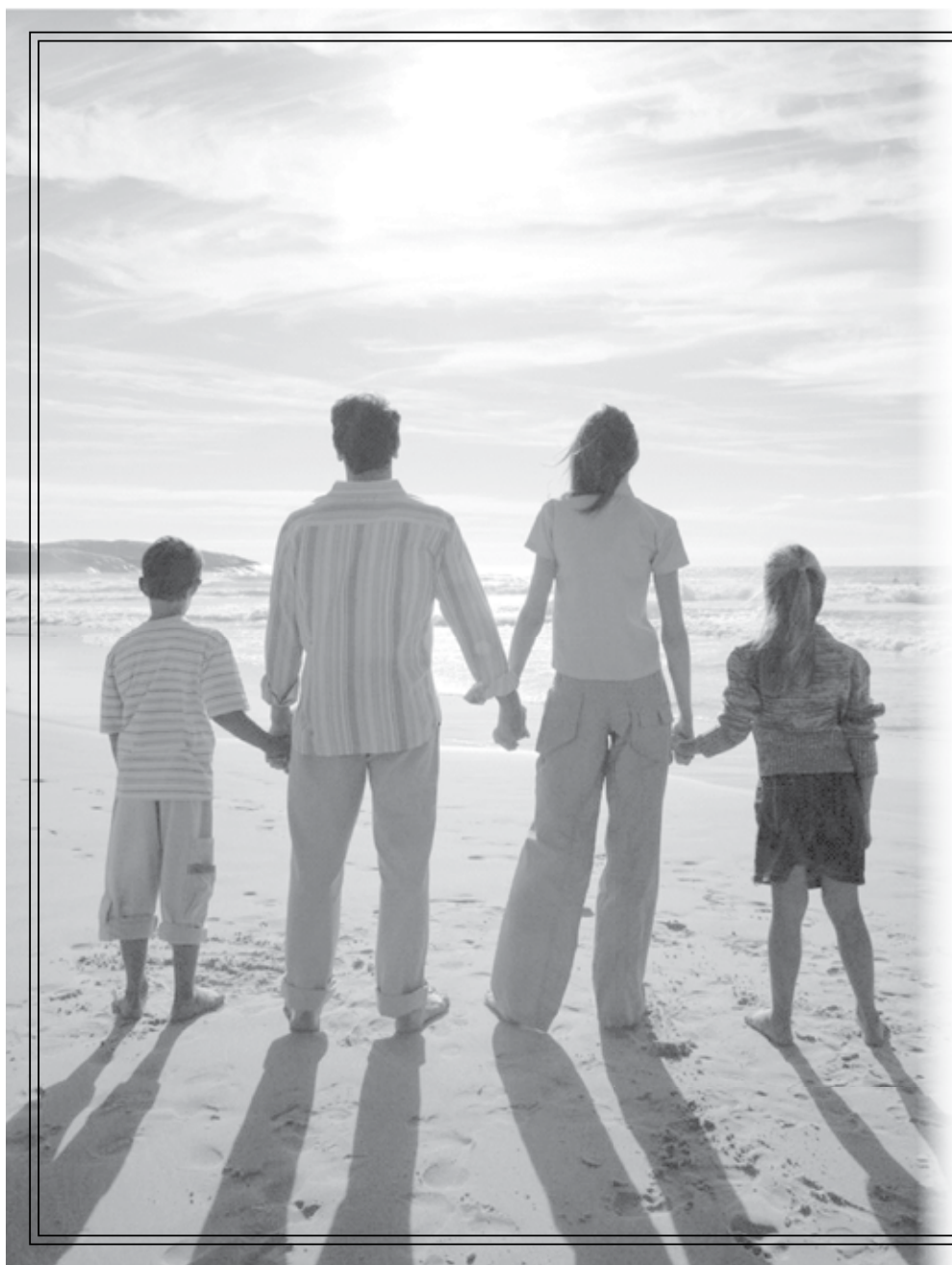
The approach makes it easy for members as well. "This shows them how to share the Book of Mormon and gives them courage to actually do it."

Elder Hatch stresses, "I am just a facilitator. I couldn't have done it without Lanny's original concept: Noah Man-

waring's illustration, and the bookmark layout by Jim Schuett."

Most of all, he credits the Lord and the promptings he has received. "I have felt Heavenly Father's spirit often as we've worked on this," he says. "It's been humbling to be involved."

His goal is to continue to help "flood the earth" with the Book of Mormon, by providing free copies or pdf downloads of these tools to anyone who can use them. The Hatches are also available to do presentations in various Church settings. To contact the Hatches, email lorinhatch@gmail.com.



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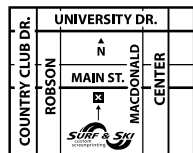
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Young Church Service Missions Offer Alternatives for Missionary Service

By Cecily Markland Condie
The Beehive

After six heart surgeries and a liver transplant, Kaylynn Briggs of Gilbert thought her dream of serving a mission was out of the question.

William Guthrie, too, thought, with his developmental delays, he didn't qualify and he couldn't possibly "hope they call me on a mission" unless his parents, Jo Ellen and Dale Guthrie, of the Elliot Ward, Gilbert Arizona Stake, could somehow accompany him.

Today, Kaylynn and William are

Young Church Service Missionaries (YCSMs), and are among 80 young Arizonans—all who once thought they couldn't serve, but are doing just that.

When Blair and Cindy Packard of Gilbert were called as the Arizona YCSM Mission Leaders about 18 months ago, the mission was one of eight pilot programs in the United States.

Today, it's an ongoing program to provide young people who live at home a mission experience that mirrors a



Photo courtesy Elder Blair Packard

Like full-time missionaries, although Young Church Service Missionaries in the Phoenix area live at home, they serve with a companion and participate in district and zone activities, such as the trip to the Mesa Temple pictured above that included (l to r) Elder Bryson May, Sister Hailey McKendrick, Elder Scotland Hillman, Elder Talon Rohner, Elder Parker Bradshaw, with Arizona YCSM Mission Leaders Sister Cindy Packard and Elder Blair Packard.

proselyting mission.

"These Young Church Service Missionaries have companions. We have

organized zones and districts. We have weekly district meetings and monthly

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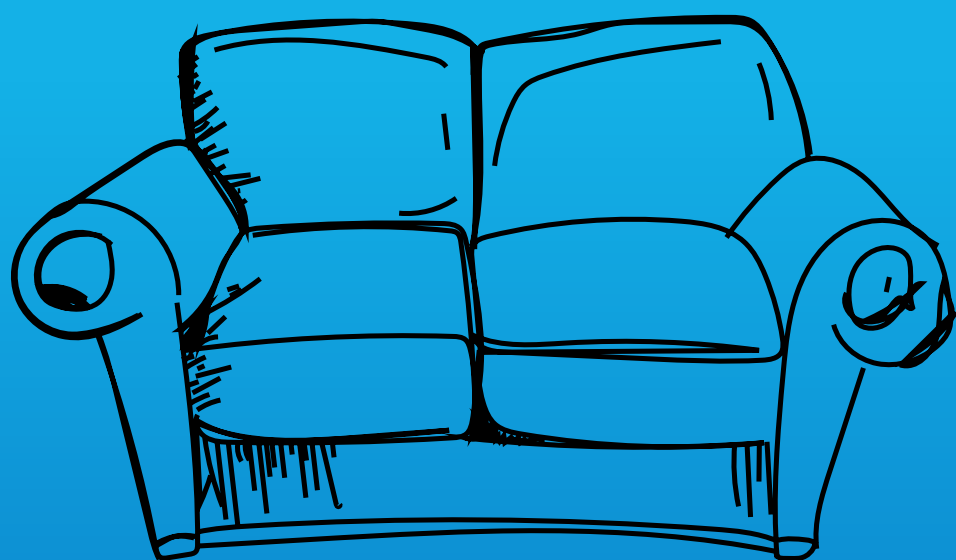
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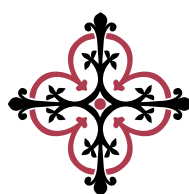
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Church Service Missions
Continued from pg. 8

mission activities or conferences,” Sister Packard says.

“For many young people, a proselyting mission simply isn’t possible,” but, “President Monson has said there are two ways to serve and they are equal in the sight of the Lord.”

The missionaries are 18- to 25-year-old young men who have been honorably excused from serving proselyting missions—usually due to health issues—and any 19- to 25-year-old young women who may choose a service mission experience. Others who have come home early from full-time proselyting missions for health-related reasons are also eligible for a service mission.

With the help of the mission’s Facilitating Couple, Mark and Laurel Pugmire, assignments are tailored to each missionary’s needs and abilities.

Currently, YCSMs serve in over 40 Arizona locations—both at Church-run facilities, including the Bishop’s Storehouse, Deseret Industries and the Records Operations Center, and at many non-profit organizations. Elder Guthrie works at the Bishop’s Storehouse three days and volunteers at an elementary school and a barbershop the other two weekdays. Sister Briggs spends four days a week, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Lauren’s Institute for Education, a

school for children with disabilities, where she supervises all the YCSMs who serve there as teacher’s aids.

“These organizations tell us they couldn’t run without the help of our wonderful missionaries,” Sister Packard says.

The missionaries themselves experience tremendous benefits as well.

“These young missionaries grow in many ways, just like proselyting missionaries do. They gain stronger testimonies, they learn valuable life skills, and they experience joy in being able to follow the example of Jesus Christ and serve others,” says Elder Packard.

“Their one desire is to serve the Lord,” says Sister Packard. “I love to see the growth they experience as they strengthen their faith in Christ and share their unique gifts and talents to bless others and build up the Kingdom of God.”

“It’s been wonderful for Will,” says Sister Guthrie. It’s given him a “reason to lift his chin up,” knowing that “he is doing something significant, something meaningful.”

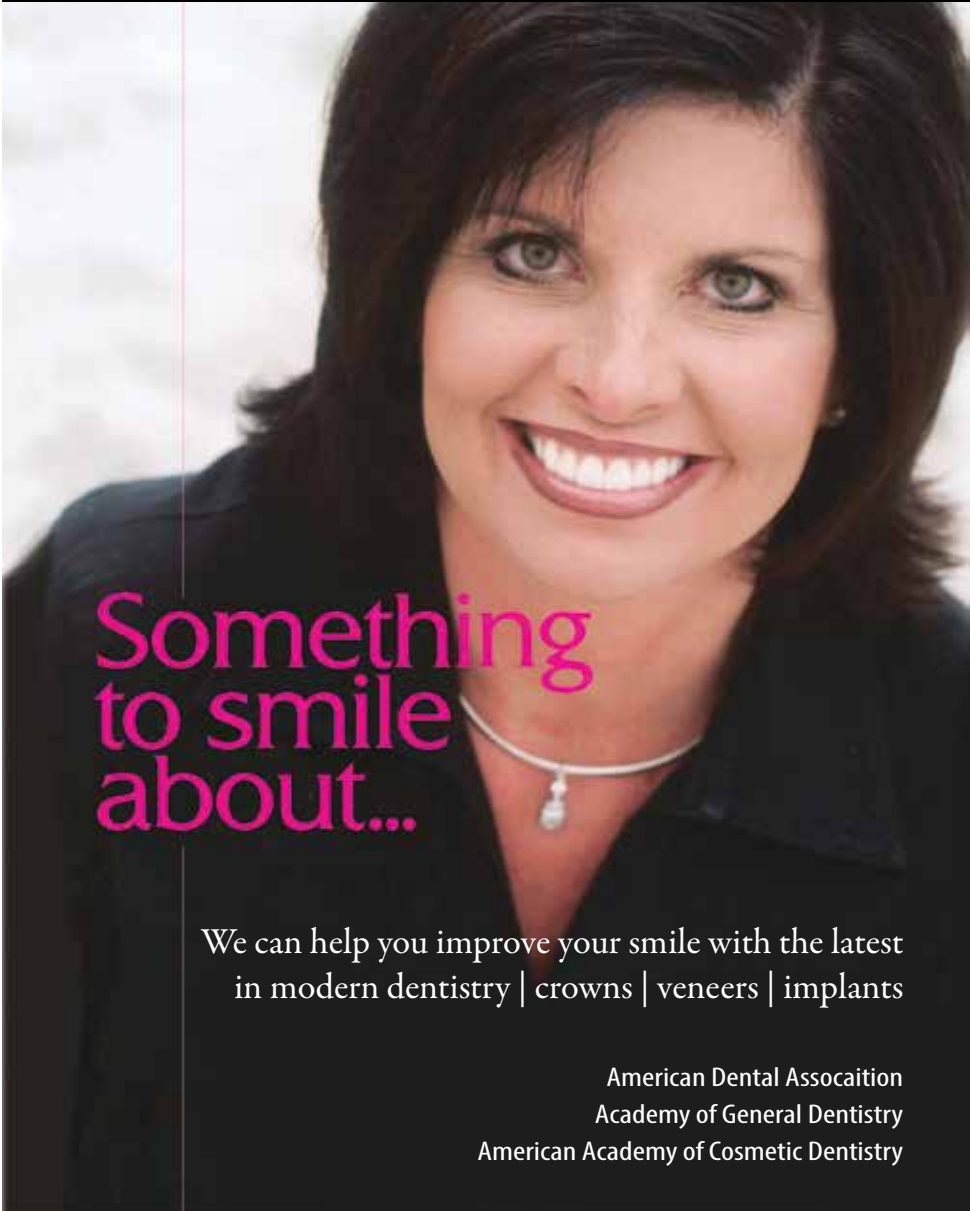
She says a particularly telling moment was when she attended a missionary conference, and, as the missionaries sang, “Behold a Royal Army,” they raised their hands high to sing the chorus, “Victory!, victory!”

“I was so touched,” she says. “I

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Dr. Paul R. Sandstrom

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PREP YOUR MISSIONARY

Mission papers sent off? Great! Now what? There are plenty of things you can do to prepare spiritually, physically, emotionally, and financially while waiting for that all-important call packet. Check in with us for tips, tricks, and useful resources for preparing missionaries and their families.

By Allison Beckett
The Beehive

Preparation Through Observation

The responsibilities of missionary work vary, and missionaries can be asked to fill a variety of roles. Perhaps the ward struggles with bringing inactive members back to activity, or the area or country has few members at all and very little leadership. How can missionaries prepare to step into any role asked of them, including major leadership positions?

A preparing missionary raised in the church, attending meetings from cradle to call, cannot always rely on what they've grown up with to give them enough to step straight from member to leader. It's similar to driving. Even though you may have

gone across town hundreds of times as a passenger, if you haven't been paying special attention getting there on your own can be a challenge. A single detour or unfamiliar street name can throw you off.

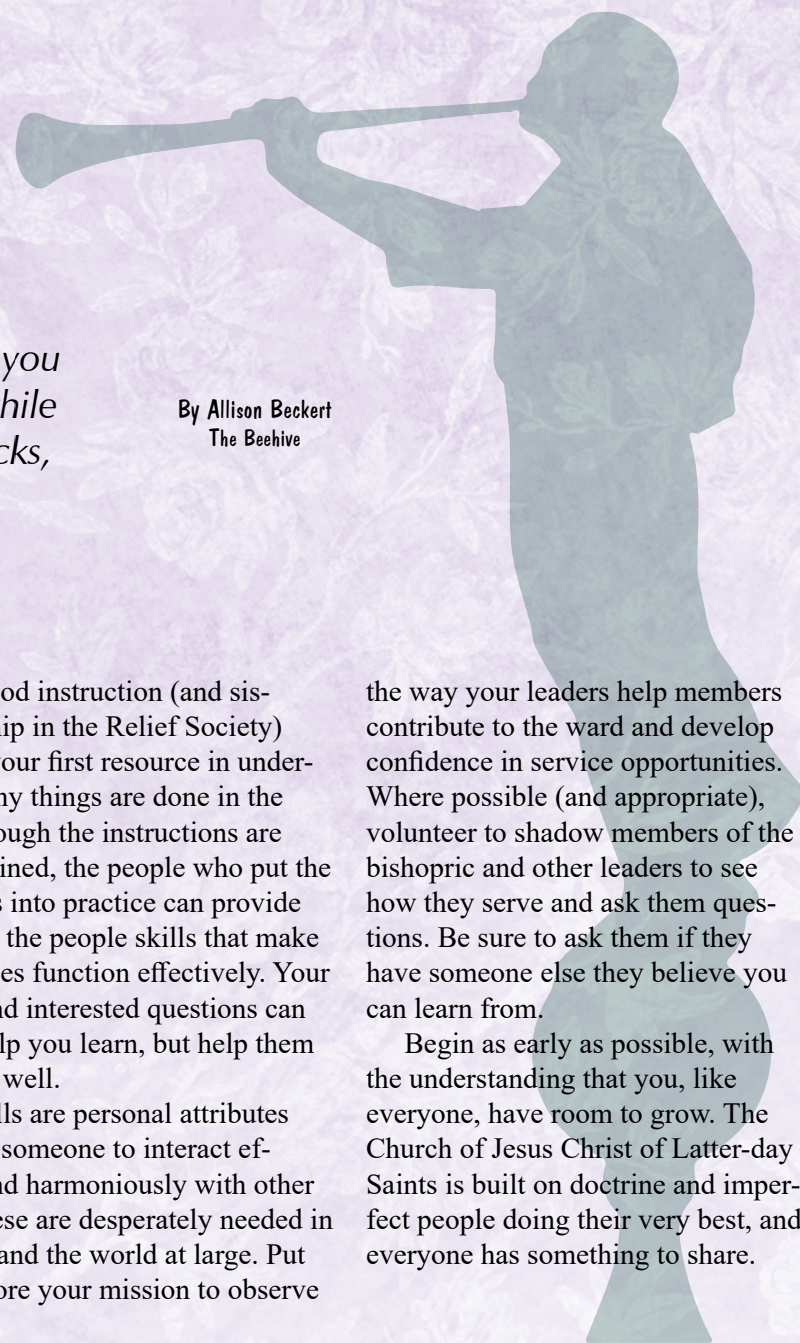
The day-to-day function of a ward or branch, when going well, often looks seamless. Actually, it's a dance of authority, respect, and reverence learned over time and through careful attention. The structures of member meetings, roles, responsibilities, and conduct of ordinances can be found in the church handbooks, which, though accessible, are often less useful in application than looking to your leaders for instruction through example.

Priesthood instruction (and sister leadership in the Relief Society) should be your first resource in understanding why things are done in the church. Though the instructions are clearly outlined, the people who put the instructions into practice can provide insight into the people skills that make these policies function effectively. Your attention and interested questions can not only help you learn, but help them improve as well.

Soft skills are personal attributes that enable someone to interact effectively and harmoniously with other people. These are desperately needed in the church and the world at large. Put time in before your mission to observe

the way your leaders help members contribute to the ward and develop confidence in service opportunities. Where possible (and appropriate), volunteer to shadow members of the bishopric and other leaders to see how they serve and ask them questions. Be sure to ask them if they have someone else they believe you can learn from.

Begin as early as possible, with the understanding that you, like everyone, have room to grow. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is built on doctrine and imperfect people doing their very best, and everyone has something to share.



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Third Grader, Naomi Ellender Wins Oratorical Speech Contest

By Emily Jex Boyle
The Beehive

According to Hank Smith, "When we learn about the past, we gather strength for the future." Naomi Ellender, of the Hampton Ward in Gilbert, would likely agree.



Photo courtesy of Sharon Scanlan

Naomi Ellender, third grader, received the Rob Rimer award by Rimer himself. Rimer is the founder of the state competition 50 years ago. The distinguished award is given for best overall speech for all grades combined.

As a third grader, Naomi was recently recognized at state level for her speech representing American heritage hero Harriet Tubman.

In December, Naomi's teacher announced the competition and Naomi

went right to work. She had learned about slavery in the United States and the Underground Railroad and was curious about the role of a woman directly involved. Naomi made her selection and wrote her speech on her own.

Her mother, Ruth Ellender, says, "She read for a couple hours online, looked at photos, then asked to go to the public library . . . she made notes, and compiled a long list of facts and life story." Her parents helped her nar-

row down the list because her speech was well beyond the five minute limit for the competition.

Aside from Tubman's notable accomplishments as a modern-day Moses, aiding hundreds of slaves out of the South and advocating for women's rights to vote, Naomi was particularly inspired when learning about Tubman's childhood. While she wasn't able to include much of that due to the timeframe of her speech, she was very

touched by Harriet's rise from slavery.

Naomi says, "Look at the stuff she did. She just kept going and going."

Ruth says, "Naomi wrote her speech, picked her outfit, and memorized it all by herself. She decided to use the Southern accent herself. She wanted brown makeup on her face to show the dirt that Harriet must have had on her face from all the hiding she did along the way. Her attention to detail was remarkable."

In January, Naomi competed first at her school, Superstition Springs Elementary. She won first place for the K-3 grades round. She was invited

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COOKING WITH the BEEHIVE

By Rachael Fuller
The Beehive

Good-for-you pizza? Look no further!

We've all been there as parents: how do we get our picky kids (or ourselves) to eat more veggies? Recently, I heard about using cauliflower in place of starchy vegetables and flour in certain recipes. As a mom always looking for a way to sneak in veggies and eat healthier, I thought I would try a pizza crust. I admit, I was a huge skeptic but this pizza crust was delicious and even received the stamp of approval from my three kids. Happy eating!

Ingredients

- 2 pounds cauliflower florets, riced
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/3 cup soft goat cheese (chevre)
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano or Italian seasoning
- Pinch of salt
- Optional ingredients- pesto, garlic, parmesan cheese

- Preheat oven to 400F.
- Fill a pot with about an inch of water and bring to a boil. Add the cauliflower and cover; let it cook for 4-5 minutes. Drain into a fine-mesh strainer.
- Once the rice is strained, transfer to a clean, thin dishtowel. Wrap up the steamed rice in the dishtowel, twist it, then squeeze the excess moisture

- out. The cauliflower should have a dry, crumbly feel.
- In a bowl, mix your strained rice, beaten egg, goat cheese, and spices. The mixture will be different than other pizza doughs, but will bind together just fine.
- Press the dough out onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper; if you don't use the parchment, the dough will stick. Keep the dough about 1/3" thick, and the edges a little higher for a "crust" effect.
- Bake for 35-40 minutes at 400F. The crust should be firm and golden brown when finished.
- Now add your toppings: sauce, cheese, and any other toppings you like. Return the pizza to the 400F oven, and bake an additional 5-10 minutes, until the cheese is melted.
- Slice and serve immediately!



Photo by Rachael Fuller

The cauliflower crust is healthy and crisp.



Recipe from Detoxinista.com

Church Service Missions Continued from pg. 11

thought, 'I am in the midst of greatness. There is really something going on here.'"

Elder and Sister Packard say they are eager to spread the word about YCSMs. "We want everyone in Arizona to know this is available, and if they know someone that could be serving, they can contact us," by emailing cpackard@ldschurch.org or bpackard@ldschurch.org or calling 480-747-4451.

For video clips and more about YCSM requirements and opportunities, visit www.lds.org/ycsm

Naomi Ellender Wins Contest Continued from pg. 15

to the 18th Annual District Speech Competition held at Boulder Creek Elementary in early February for Gilbert Public Schools. From there, she was invited to the state competition held on February 18 at the Mason's Lodge. After presenting her speech for the third time, she was awarded the Rob Rimer award by Rimer himself. Rimer is the founder of the state competition 50 years ago. The distinguished award is given for best overall speech for all grades combined.

Naomi is already looking forward to competing again next year as well as to opportunities in acting. Storytelling is a beautiful art form with historical treasures.



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App Created to organize and share mission experiences also aids family history work

As reported in the April 2017 issue of the Beehive, the Gilbert-based company App Developers has created exciting new mobile apps that make organizing and sharing missionary information a breeze. (See “Award-winning, interactive displays bring missionary work to life” by Cecily Markland Condie.)

While CEO and founder Kevin Wade enjoys presenting the technology to local stakes, many of the events he has been invited to lately are family history-related. Surprisingly, the Called to Serve and Missionary Display apps have been recognized as powerful tools for gathering and saving the mission photos, letters, and journals of not only current missionaries, but their ancestors as well.

Brother Wade, of the Highland Ranch Ward, Mesa Boulder Creek Stake, describes the Called to Serve app as a ‘camera’ collecting and organizing the information. The Missionary Display app is like a ‘television,’ displaying the information for family groups to see.

He views a 2014 Facebook post by Elder Dallin H. Oaks as validation. Elder Oaks shared pictures of a world map that hangs in his office. He said, “This map...is one of my most prized possessions. It details all of the missions that my [family has] served. For me this map represents faith in the Lord, love of fellow man, and a family which has answered the call to serve.”

Similarly, the Missionary Display apps provide families with a virtual map of where everyone has served, and it’s literally at their fingertips on their phones. But it’s so much more. “The really cool thing,” Brother Wade says, “is that people can use the app’s ‘voice to text’ feature to read in all of their old missionary letters.”

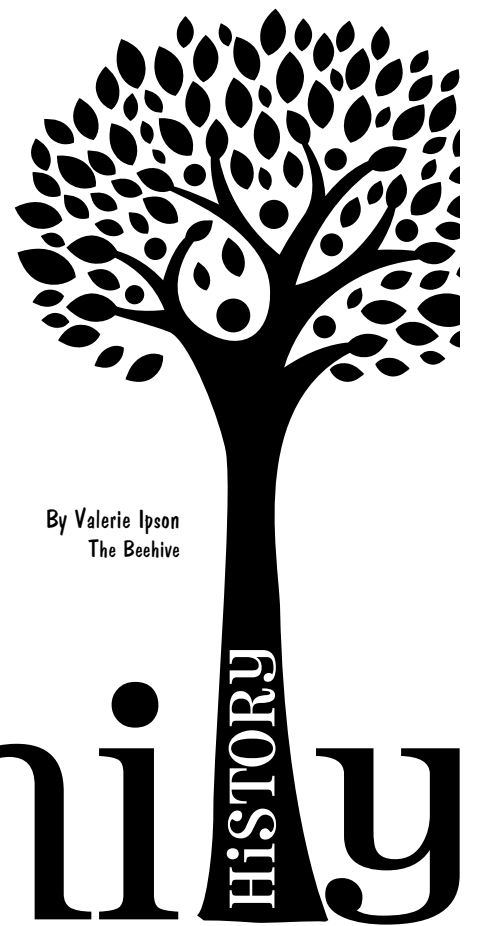
For example, he wrote 42 letters home while on his mission to Japan over 30 years ago. (He admits he wasn’t the best writer.) Instead of possibly spending two weeks transcribing, he dictated them into the app in about four hours.

“My phone can type faster than me and is an excellent speller.” His niece dictated his mother’s missionary journal in one day.

Without this technology, his parents’ mission mementos would still be in a shoebox gathering dust, and once passed down to one of the children might never be shared with anyone. Now families have the ability to digitize photos, stories, letters, and journals for all to enjoy.

Preserving treasured mission memories just got a lot easier, and will be accessible to generations for years to come as families create a legacy of missionary service to the Lord.

The free apps can be found in any app store. Go to <http://www.missionaryapps.com> for more information.



By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive



Photo courtesy of Kevin Wade

At the BYU Women’s Conference in Provo (from left to right) are Hailee Platt, Jane Tibbitts, David Wade, Kevin Wade, Callie Freshour, McKenna Milne and Jamie Armstrong. Front row seated are Ashtyn Heninger, Lexee Evans and Lynette Schloer.

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Dave Ellsworth
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I’m a 6th grade Mesa teacher working my 2nd job.

HUSBAND & WIFE TEAM BRING CHURCH MUSIC TO LIFE WITH LDS ANIMATED

By Merry Gordon
The Beehive

With thousands of new apps released daily, how can parents sift through the digital deluge and find meaningful content for kids? Look no further: LDS Animated, a Church music-themed app that launched last fall, brings Primary songs to life.

Husband and wife team Blake and Natasha Johnson, of the Superstition Springs Ward, Kimball East Stake, combined efforts to produce the mobile device app that features a growing library of Primary songs. Songs are available in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish and unite scrolling lyrics with captivating animation. Animated characters reflect the cultural, racial and ethnic diversity of a growing Church, and the Johnsons have made it a point to show situations that reflect

the music in content and theme. But LDS Animated is more than just pure entertainment—it offers engagement on a moral level.

“We’ve made attempts to depict scenarios where you can see a child taking a moment to make a choice,” Blake says. “We’ve also made attempts to help children look at the world around them, to find ways to help.”

Blake cites a poignant moment in the animation for “I’m Trying to Be Like Jesus” in which a father and daughter feed a homeless man as an example of this real-life application. “We offer content that engages children in a subtle religious tone and it offers parents peace of mind,” he says. “They know their children are being taught powerful life lessons.”

Currently, the app features “I Love



Photo by Kara Barratt

Blake and Natasha Johnson, the husband and wife team behind LDS Animated, seek to provide quality content for children.

to See the Temple,” “I Am a Child of God,” “Love is Spoken Here,” “I’m Trying to Be Like Jesus,” “I Will Follow God’s Plan” and “Stand For the Right” and “The Church of Jesus Christ.” New content is planned for the future.

A BYU grad in animation who has worked in Hollywood, Blake enjoys this new entrepreneurial role with his wife, Natasha, who handles legal and business aspects while her husband

animates. “Working as a team has strengthened our marriage, our friendship,” Blake says. “We’ve dumped our souls into our cause.” He cites his wife’s partnership as critical: “The project was and is so taxing, it wouldn’t work unless we were both all in.” The Johnsons are parents 5-year-old twins and understand well the chal-

Continued on pg. 19

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18 • The Beehive

LDS woman overcomes life's challenges through FASTING



Photo courtesy of Laura Lofgreen

Laura Lofgreen before and after her Thirty-day Fasting experience, with her two youngest kids.

By Parker Sappington
The Beehive

Every individual faces the challenges of life in ways unique to them. Sister Laura Lofgreen is no exception.

When faced with daily stress, procrastination of goals and hobbies, and the reality of her weight, Sister Lofgreen turned to something she hadn't tried for twenty years: fasting.

Not only would she fast, she would do so for thirty days in something called intermittent fasting—refraining from food for sixteen hours followed by an eight-hour eating window. It's nothing too different from Latter-day Saints' monthly fast of two consecutive meals, except Sister Lofgreen did so for thirty days.

"I decided I could do something difficult and pay the price for what I wanted," she stated. "I was able to find my strength in overcoming because my focus was not on me . . . I became more sympathetic to others. It was like an awareness was born that wasn't there before."

In general, members aren't asked to

live such a strict lifestyle as intermittent fasting, but for Sister Lofgreen, it was something she felt she needed to do.

"From the first day of my fast . . . [I] put my relationship with Heavenly Father at the forefront of my life. It's no wonder I was able to confront my problems and finally doing something about it . . . I want others to know that we can do hard things."

While having been able to reach her weight loss goal, Sister Lofgreen recognized the more important benefit from her fast: those blessing of a more spiritual nature. Toward the end of her fast, on day 26, she was sad to see the spiritual experience end.

Afterwards, Laura and her husband made the personal choice of donating a generous amount to a charity of their choice. She has also returned to her passion for writing, having written a book on the experience and maintaining her own blog relating to her daily life with her husband and their six children.

LDS Animated
Continued from pg. 18

lenge of bringing a positive media influence into the home. Family discussions about media occur on a daily basis in their home.

Blake says. "We discuss the value of media but also the influence it can have on our minds, feelings and actions." He hopes to create content that enables "spiritual sensitivity" in

children.

Ultimately, the Johnsons are excited to expand their song library and create more high-quality spiritual entertainment for children.

"Our underlying effort is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, his empowering message and influence for good in our lives," Blake says.

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**Local Family Fun!
Five Great Activities for
Under \$25 Per Person!**

By Heather Kidder
The Beehive

Avoiding wasteful spending while establishing routine family time is tricky to accomplish. Diversify your family activities by getting out of your comfort zones. It's time to wake up and explore your area! This month it's time to try something new. Below are five budget-friendly options for your next family activity. There are hikes, movies and even batting cages in the East Valley for your family to enjoy.

**#2 Baseball Bonanza
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Rip City Batting Cages. Rent a cage or pay by the pitch at Rip City!

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Photo by Protrails.com

Hieroglyphics Trail Destination. These decorative rocks line the seasonal waterfall.

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New **GleefullyMe** class to be offered this summer at the Red Mountain Center

By Katherine Ogden
The Beehive

Have you ever felt like just about everything stressed you out, like you were always overwhelmed? Have you ever felt like you were in survival mode all the time? Many people do—women especially. This is exactly what Sister Elise Hurst, of the Grandview First, Mesa Central Stake, was feeling back in 2015.

She had tried reading some self-help books, but as their help only seemed to be temporary, she reached out by seeking counseling. Through this counseling, she slowly learned ways that she could be in control of her own emotions and happiness.

"I became aware of all the negative chatter inside my head," says Sister Hurst, "and of all the self-bullying that was going on there."

She first started blogging about her experiences, and gained a good following. She was also inspired to write a song about it, called "Embrace Who You Are," and she has recently finished a book about this same topic, specifically

for children, entitled *Uniquely Nora*.

"I began to feel that this was my calling," says Sister Hurst, "to let others know these same things that I had discovered." She has since created a class called *GleefullyMe* that will start this summer and be offered at the Red Mountain Multigenerational Center through the City of Mesa. The class is a five-week course, meeting every Thursday morning, for ages 18 through 118.

"*GleefullyMe* is a class for women who desire to be less stressed, overwhelmed and self-conscious, and instead, become more carefree, relaxed and confident, while embracing their own strengths and imperfections," says Sister Hurst, "The goal of the class is to empower women to obtain strength and balance in the upward climb of life and to become a more gleeful 'you'!"

Sister Hurst grew up in Mesa, Arizona, and is a wife, a mother of 3 boys, a writer, singer and motivational speaker. She also won the title of Mrs. Mesa, Arizona International 2017, but



Photo courtesy of Amy Stewart

Christopher and Elise Hurst and their three sons.

reluctantly had to turn it down after receiving the news that she is expecting their fourth child.

She was recently invited to give a presentation at the Tucson Postpartum Depression Coalition this past April 25th, the video recording of which can

be viewed on her "*Gleefully Me: Empowerment, Motivation, Inspiration*" Facebook page.

For further information about the class dates, class times and cost, go to eliserhurst.wordpress.com/blog or to her Facebook page @gleefullymeElise

Arizona Author Marsha Ward Celebrates Frontier Cookbook

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive



Photo by Heather Gardner Photography

From *Julia's Kitchen - Owen Family Cookery* is a delightful blend of actual historical recipes with fictional introductions added. The new book is a part of author Marsha Ward's Owen family saga series.

"Enjoy the fictional aspects of this book in the world of the Owen Family, and then make the real recipes to enjoy with family and friends," says Ward.

Ward says, "There are 58 tried and true old-time recipes. Many are historical recipes from colonial times forward to the frontier after the Civil War. I included a couple of recipes from my

own collection that have been passed down."

A few recipes included in the book are Roast for Sunday Dinner, Vegetable Soup, Pigeon, Pennsylvania Flannel Cakes, Virginia Ash Cake, Green Corn Patties (Mock Oysters), Calf's

Foot Jelly, Soda Cracker (Mock Apple) Pie, and Homemade Lye.

"These recipes were made during the Civil War," says Ward.

An example from the book:

Fritters - An Old Lee Family Recipe

Julia clipped this recipe, celebrating the victory at Fredericksburg by

Continued on pg. 23

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Gen'l Robert E. Lee, from a Richmond newspaper during the "War Against Northern Aggression".

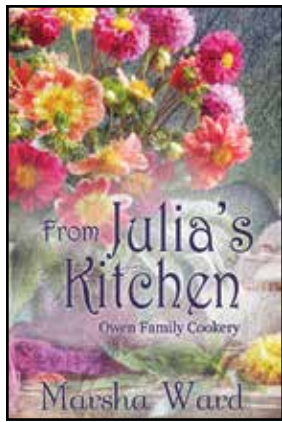
Early in the evening, make up 1 quart of flour with 1 egg well beaten, a large spoonful of yeast, and as much milk as will make it a little softer than muffin dough.

In the morning, when well risen, work in 2 tablespoonfuls of melted butter.

Make into balls the size of a walnut and fry a light brown in boiling lard. Serve with wine and sugar or molasses.

For more information see www.marshaward.com. Her book is currently available at Amazon, BN.com, Kobo, Apple iTunes and Smashwords.com. Both ebook and POD book are available at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0996146334/>

You may also subscribe to Marsha Ward's Readers Club newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/vBKEj>



From *Julia's Kitchen - Owen Family Cookery* book by Marsha Ward.



IN THE MOMMY ZONE...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

I've perfected the art of worry. It's my prerogative as a busy mother of six children.

For the past 23 years, I've worried about baby bumps and bruises, coughs and colic, diarrhea and diaper rash. I've stressed over children's wobbly first steps, teething troubles, toilet training, and tummy trauma. And don't get me started on nebulizers, nausea, newborns, nosebleeds, and nightmares.

Then comes the splinters, sleepovers, Scout overnights, sports injuries, shattered collar bones, and of course, standardized schooling. And don't forget those clumsy crutches, carsickness crusades, chronic braces, cheesy first dates, and clumsy driving permits. My list goes on and on...

It's difficult for me to watch my children struggle, hence the years-long consummate worry fixation. I fret if I taught them enough, if I supported them enough, if I loved them enough. Yet I've always battled in life's trenches right alongside them all, assisting each as best I could in this so-called life.

Our oldest three children have now come of age and have left the safety of our home. In fact, fifty percent of our children are now gone, as our oldest son is away at college and our next two eldest sons are serving church missions in faraway lands—cue my anxious angst.

Furthermore, our two full-time missionary sons are serving in Guatemala and southern Mexico and both have endured many difficulties. I worry about their safety as one of only a few Americans serving deep in their respective country's jungles. Our second son's emails witness of non-existent electricity, of cold bucket showers and jungle rats, of sickness from ingesting rice and slugs, of infections from breathing volcanic ash. Our third son's emails reveal struggles with food poisoning, consuming teathed fish, country violence, hunger, rejection, and of drinking bagged fresh water.

But as their weekly emails expose their harsh trials and tribulations, I realize that these very struggles are what is molding and shaping them

into the young men I had prayed they would someday become—more caring, thoughtful, compassionate, able, and capable servants. I'm fairly certain they don't reveal half of what they endure, yet each week's letter depicts a more humble, conscientious, faithful, obedient, hard-working, trustworthy young man that is changing and growing in ways I could never have imagined.

They both seem to be thriving upon these difficult circumstances, with each challenge revealing a stronger, more resilient young missionary. The rejection compels them to seek more opportunities for growth and service. Their hunger has disclosed more gratitude for the blessings of home and family. Their sicknesses are humbling, serving as catalysts for continued obedience and determination.

Even though they are so far away and there is not much I can do for them, I still worry, for I've perfected the art of worry and I'll probably never stop. I do trust in the growth process and in mothers letting go of their children, but that's my own obstacle to overcome someday. At least when that day arrives, I'll have my weathered worries to keep me company, and of course, myriads of mothering memories.



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The founders of Mormon Women for Ethical Government (MWEG). From left to right: Linda Hoffman Kimball, Sharlee Mullins Glenn, Erica Glenn, Jacque White, Melissa Dalton-Bradford. Immigration, health care and discrimination among top MWEG issues. Photo courtesy of MWEG.